

Comments on N2021-1

May 22, 2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission

I am not part of the Postal sector; I am just an American who believes in the Postal Service. I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Postal System that would further degrade service and standards. I believe in Universal Service and the survival of a public agency the people of this country can rely on. The private sector is answerable to no one other than shareholders and can raise rates to any level it believes it can sustain. I know that USPS has been burdened by costs no other government agency carries in terms of pension obligations and an expectation that it turn a profit as if it were indeed a private sector business. It is not a business, it is an essential service.

Everyone knows that the pandemic has worsened processing and delivery problems. For me, mail delivery during the isolation period included medication, groceries, and home goods as well as mail ballots for elections. Operational changes in 2020 have already resulted in significant impact on mail delivery. I have experienced lost mail, mail for other people misdelivered to my mailbox, and delays like getting packages days past the 'expected delivery date' on the postal receipt. Further cuts to service will only worsen the situation.

Instead I ask the PRC to study what would make the USPS once again reliable and efficient by examining various and hybrid ways to pay for it. Americans want their Postal Service to survive and no one is asking us how much we would be willing to pay for a first class stamp for something we can be sure will arrive in a timely manner. If it is determined that 75-cents or more is what it would take, and that is deemed too onerous, then Congress can take up the question of providing additional funding or eliminating some of the ridiculously long future pension funding requirements.

This proposed 10-year plan will create a death spiral. Declining service will mean declining use. While I personally may have options for paying bills, banking and other necessary communications, many people do not. If you approve this plan you should be honest enough to acknowledge that you are knowingly killing what is arguably our oldest Constitutional "original" public government agency. We need our postal service.

Yours truly,

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